

complained, who was always upbeat, and who continuously looked out for his friends and family.

He was an avid Virginia Tech sports fan, an unfailing fan of the New York Yankees, and always eager to enjoy a game of golf with his friends.

Jake had a tremendous community presence in his home of Poolesville, MD. From his leadership role in the local Chamber of Commerce, to organizing and serving as chair of "Poolesville Day" in honor of his beloved community, to helping coach youth basketball teams, to serving as an announcer at local school sporting events, Jake's dedication to community service exemplified the motto of his alma-mater, Virginia Tech: *Ut Prosim*—that I may serve.

Jake Perkins was a big man with a big presence. The biggest thing about him, however, was his heart. He will be greatly missed by this Senator and many WARNER staff members past and present.

My sincere condolences go out to his dear mother, Mrs. Ellen Perkins of Poolesville, MD, and his brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Shoshana Perkins. We thank you for the gift of Jake's friendship in our lives. We will miss him, but we are forever grateful for the time we had with him. Jake Perkins will always be remembered.

CONGRATULATING BILL O'NEIL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today it is my honor to salute a longtime Vermont athletic coach, Bill O'Neil, of Essex High School. Bill has been named the 2006 Hockey Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. While he has amassed an impressive record in his 35 years of coaching hockey, softball and girls soccer, winning over 900 games and 16 State championships, Bill has always instilled in his players the simple attitude that the game is more than just the win. Learning to play the game, positive sportsmanship, community involvement and academics are even more important to Coach O'Neil. To his players, Bill is a coach, mentor, teacher and lifelong friend.

I am delighted that a Vermonter has been recognized with such a prestigious honor. The Burlington Free Press recently published an article about Coach O'Neil's recognition. I ask unanimous consent that the article, "O'Neil Tops in the Nation," by Ted Ryan, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press,
Feb. 8, 2007]

O'NEIL TOPS IN THE NATION
(By Ted Ryan)

In 35 years of coaching at Essex High School, Bill O'Neil has won over 900 games and 16 state championships in three sports.

He's been a Vermont coach of the year twice in girls' soccer, twice in boys' hockey and three times in softball.

In 2006, his Hornets won the girls' soccer and boys hockey state titles and finished second in softball.

Now, O'Neil is the national high school boys' hockey coach of the year for 2006. "It blew me away," O'Neil said after Essex athletic director Ed Hockenbury informed him of the honor.

"I'm very surprised, very flattered," O'Neil said. "It's a very humbling experience. How can you describe how you feel?"

He said he was staggered at thinking of the many coaches for such hockey beds as Minnesota, Michigan, Massachusetts, Colorado, "even California" who were deserving of such an honor, awarded by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

O'Neil had been named the Section 1 boys hockey coach for 2006, making him eligible for the national award. Two other Vermont coaches, Northfield High School baseball coach Frank Pecora and Woodstock Union High School football coach Jim McLaughlin, were also Section 1 winners.

"Bill is extraordinarily dedicated and hard-working," said Essex athletic director Ed Hockenbury. "He loves spending his time with kids. Win or lose, he is a role model who exemplifies class and dignity in the coaching profession. He is very deserving of this award."

O'Neil will be honored by the Vermont Principals Association at its annual VPA Hall of Fame dinner in May.

O'Neil's boys' hockey teams have reached the finals 15 times, winning the title 11 times. His 2005-06 team went 19-4 and defeated BFA-St. Albans in the championship game.

Whatever the sport, O'Neil said, he has been fortunate to work for athletic directors—Paul Henry, Bruce Wheeler, Melba Masse and Hockenbury—who "emphasize the importance of involvement with kids, that it's more than winning."

"They've never been just about winning. When I'd go in and say we're down, they'd say, 'You're doing a good job with the kids. They've learned the game, they're coming along and they're doing stuff in the community.'"

"All of these mentors of mine have made these programs, not just my programs but all in Essex athletics. All the coaches here are esteemed," O'Neil said. "You don't see anybody that only wants to win and that's what matters."

O'Neil acknowledged that he is not often on the same page as the youth hockey coaches, but said, "They do a huge job of teaching kids the game, getting them involved and making them have some pride in the game and, I'd like to think, respect for the game and all that goes with it."

However, he said, he is concerned that the heavy game schedules for youth teams tend to take something away from appreciation for the sport.

At 35 years of coaching and counting, O'Neil said he can no longer demonstrate everything on the ice or field, but he's still invigorated by young assistants.

"I think more and more about that time being over," said O'Neil of his coaching tenure. "That bothers me. Sometimes I'm so old-school about stuff . . . but I like what I'm doing and I enjoy the kids."

With his children growing and leaving home, O'Neil said, "The coaching thing is my reward at the end of the day."

"As much as I like teaching, I love coaching," said the English teacher.

And as long as he feels that way, Bill O'Neil will continue adding to one of the most impressive coaching careers in Vermont high school history.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE LORNE "GUMP" JOHN WORSLEY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a hockey legend whose personality and character remind us all of the human side of sports; Lorne "Gump" John Worsley. During his years playing professional hockey in Minnesota, beginning his career with the St. Paul Saints and finishing with the Minnesota North Stars, he found a special place in the hearts of fans who knew him simply as "the Gumper."

Lorne Worsley was born in Montreal, Quebec, on May 14, 1929. As a child, he was given the nickname "Gump" because the cowlick in his hair looked almost identical to that of comic strip character Andy Gump. The nickname would follow him for the rest of his life. Despite growing up penniless during the Great Depression, Gump dreamed of being a professional hockey player, a dream that would lead him into the history books as one of the most memorable and accomplished goalies in hockey.

In 1950, Gump Worsley began his professional hockey career, playing for the St. Paul Saints of the U.S. Hockey League. That year, Gump obtained the first of many future accolades when he was named the league's Rookie of the Year. Two years later, in 1952, Gump joined the National Hockey League's New York Rangers, where his debut season earned him the Calder Trophy as NHL Rookie of the Year.

As Gump Worsley's career progressed, so did his accomplishments. After being acquired by the Montreal Canadiens, his hometown team, in 1963, Gump helped lead the team to four Stanley Cup Championships in the span of 5 years—winning titles in 1965, 1966, 1968, and 1969. During his time with the Canadiens, Gump was awarded the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goalie in both 1966 and 1968. In 1966, his record was 29-14-6 with a goals-against-average of 2.36. In 1968, he amassed a record of 19-9-8, with an amazing goals-against-average of just 1.98.

In 1970, Gump joined the Minnesota North Stars, helping fuel the team to the NHL playoffs in three consecutive seasons. Gump Worsley retired from the sport he loved in 1974 with a record of 335-352-150, including 43 shutouts. Over the course of his career, Gump was selected to the National Hockey League's All Star Game four times—in 1961, 1962, 1965, and 1972. After his retirement as a player, Gump remained active in hockey as a scout for the Minnesota North Stars. In 1980, Gump was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Sadly, Gump Worsley passed away on January 26, 2007, at the age of 77. The world of hockey and the State of Minnesota now mourn the passing of a legend. Among his many accomplishments, Gump will be remembered for

not being the “prototypical” athlete and also for not wearing a goalie’s mask until the final six games of his career. Fellow hockey legend Lou Nanne described Gump Worsley as “the most unlikely-looking athlete, but when he strapped on the pads, he was one of the best in the game.” Gump Worsley’s determination to achieve his goals is an example of success that we can all strive for in our lives, and that is why today we honor “the Gumper.”●

THE FACE OF IDAHO AGRICULTURE FOR A DECADE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, one of the marks of a successful government official is his or her ability to bridge the gap between the public and the agency in order to foster a positive and productive relationship that benefits the public good. Someone who not only accomplishes this, but takes this principle to a level of excellence, is nothing short of exceptional. A fellow Idahoan, Pat Takasugi, is just such an individual. Pat retired from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on December 31, 2006, serving as its director for the past 10 years, under three governors. A third-generation farmer from Wilder, ID, Pat promoted excellence in Idaho agriculture on multiple fronts for a decade: foreign trade, conservation, regulation, compliance, inter-agribusiness partnerships, and beneficial relationships among producers, processors, consumers, and international partners.

Pat served his country with distinction even before leading the Idaho Department of Agriculture. He attained the rank of captain in the Army and served as a Green Beret A-team commander in the Special Forces.

Pat’s knowledge of agriculture is rooted deeply in his family and, as a grower of alfalfa seed, onions, wheat, pea seed, and garden bean seed, he has a well-rounded sense of Idaho crops and the conditions and processes necessary for success. It is a fact that agriculture in Idaho and in the United States is a complex and highly interdependent system. All parts, from regulations to funding to common practices to the actual production on the ground, must work in concert in order to keep our food supply safe and efficient, and our agri-businesses thriving. Pat understands these multifaceted relationships on a systemic level; this strength lent itself to superior leadership and accomplishment in his role as director.

Regulations pose particular challenges to any commodity system; Pat met these challenges headon, pushing for a commonsense, financially feasible regulatory system. He created a Customer Assisted Inspection Program for fruits and vegetables. He moved the Weights and Measures Bureau to computerized inspection forms. He streamlined the pesticide applicator licensing process. He increased education on the proper use and application of pesticides; and he was instrument, in

drafting a Memorandum of Understanding among EPA, Idaho DEQ, and industry to deal with regulatory compliance of confined animal operations including feedlots and dairies. Compliance goes hand in hand with regulations: Pat worked to improve chemigation site and equipment inspections.

Agriculture today is responding in positive and responsible ways to the environment. Pat led the way in many efforts to help Idaho agriculture respond to environmental concerns, including better identification of ground water pollutants and response strategies, increasing collections of unused pesticides, successfully fighting both Eurasian Milfoil and noxious weeds and improving the smoke management program, including local outreach to affected communities.

Throughout, Pat worked to promote Idaho agriculture products by initiating the “Idaho Preferred” marketing program. He also consistently worked to protect Idaho’s agriculture producers by creating a seed fund to mirror the Commodity Indemnity Fund and improving the Warehouse Control Program. Finally, he emphasized protection of Idaho’s food industry by creating the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab and working to isolate the potato cyst nematode outbreak and reassure our trading partners that Idaho produce remains dependably safe. Others recognized his expertise and vision. He served as president of the National Association of State Directors of Agriculture; chairman of several national committees supporting the State’s commodity indemnity fund, foreign market development and agriculture research. He served as cochair of NASDA’s Warehouse Task Force, a member of USDA’s Agricultural Air Quality Task Force, and cochair of the US-Canada Provincial State Advisory Group.

Undoubtedly, Pat recognizes the importance of foreign markets to Idaho agriculture. He was particularly supportive of market development overseas, participating in several foreign trade missions and several commodity groups.

I especially appreciate Pat’s commitment to including multiple stakeholders during agriculture policy formulation and review. He reached out to national organizations, State, and industry leaders in Idaho and the tribes to promote partnerships that aimed to solve rather than perpetuate challenges to successful agriculture in Idaho. Pat’s community outreach efforts included support of the Access Yes Program to allow sportsmen and women on to private land and the creation of a user-friendly public Web site for the Department.

Pat handled challenges such as the detection of brucellosis in Idaho livestock, grass-burning issues, and the bankruptcy of the ABT alfalfa seed company with strong leadership and deft crisis management.

Pat will be sorely missed, and his boots impossible to fill. I am honored to have worked with such a remarkable individual over the years and wish him well as he, in his own words, goes home and “starts walking fields and driving tractors—doing what real people do.” Idaho agriculture will always bear the indelible mark of Pat’s legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. QUEEN III

● Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. John M. Queen III, of Waynesville, NC, for recently becoming the president of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

John is the president and owner of John Queen Farms, a third generation cattle farm located in the mountains of North Carolina. He is a family man, a successful businessman, and a proven leader in his community and the beef industry. Over the years, John has been involved in almost every area of the beef industry from production to sale, and he has served in numerous leadership roles in the beef industry at the county, State, and national levels.

With his extensive knowledge and experience as a member of the beef industry, John Queen is the kind of leader the beef industry needs right now. In the coming months, a new farm bill will be written that will impact our livestock producers. As a producer, John Queen understands these issues firsthand, and he will have the opportunity to serve as an advocate for his fellow livestock producers.

The beef industry today is at a pivotal crossroads. As Congress works to secure fair and open markets in Europe and Asia, the beef industry must continue to work diligently to foster consumer confidence in one of our Nation’s largest export commodities. As we continue to work with the Canadian Government and governments in Asia to reopen their markets to U.S. beef, we will need diligent and creative leaders such as John Queen to help promote our beef to consumers around the world.

I am very pleased that a fellow North Carolinian will be leading the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. This is a great day for our cattlemen, and for North Carolina as a whole.●

IN HONOR OF RICHARD H. SHAPIRO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I wish to express my gratitude to Richard H. Shapiro for 18 years of service to the Congress in his capacities as program director and executive director of the Congressional Management Foundation, CMF. As he enters retirement, I wish the best for Richard and his family. They should know that the contributions he made during his tenure at the CMF have had positive impacts, direct or indirect, on the way every office in the Congress is managed.

Rick started working for the Congress in the late 1970s, when he was